COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASING
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council District No. 7

A **meeting** of the **Committee on Public Works and Purchasing**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, was held on Monday, **August 13**, **2012**, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:24 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council District No. 7; Committee Member Phillip Farley, Council District No. 1; Committee Member Dennis L. Fish, Council District No. 5; and Committee Member Jack H. Schurlknight, Council District No. 6; ex-officios: Mr. Daniel W. Davis, County Supervisor, Mr. Timothy J. Callanan, Council District No. 2, Mrs. Cathy S. Davis, Council District No. 4, and Mr. Steve C. Davis, Council District No. 8; Ms. Elizabeth Cannon, Assistant County Attorney; and Ms. Catherine Windham, Interim Clerk to Council. Committee Member Robert O. Call, Jr., Council District No. 3, was excused from this meeting.

Chairman Pinckney: "I would like to call the Committee on Public Works and Purchasing Meeting to order. Madame Clerk, has the meeting been properly noticed via the Freedom of Information Act?"

Ms. Windham: "Yes, Sir, it has."

Chairman Pinckney: "Thank you, ma'am."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Pinckney: "First on the agenda is approval of minutes of July 9, 2012."

It was moved by Committee Member Schurlknight and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **approve** the minutes, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

A.   Ms. Cindy Forte, **Register of Deeds**, **Re: Sole Source Purchase for Hecon Software**

Committee Member Farley: "Move for approval."

Committee Member Fish: "Second."

Chairman Pinckney: "I've got a motion. Do I have a second?"

Committee Member Schurlknight: "Yeah, you've got a second."

It was moved by Committee Member Farley and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **award** the sole source purchase of Hecon software upgrades for the Register of Deeds Office to High Tech Accessory Items, Incorporated.

Chairman Pinckney: "Ok; any discussion?"

Committee Member Fish: "I'm assuming, you already said in the minutes, the minutes, it's already budgeted, it's part of carry forward money, so there's no additional money required."

Ms. Forte: "That is correct."

Chairman Pinckney: "Any further discussion?"

There was no further discussion.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

B.   Mr. Wilson Baggett, **Assessor**, **Re: Sole Source Purchase for Appraisal Software**

Mr. Baggett: "We're currently using Patriot software, Patriot Properties, out of Massachusetts. We purchased them in 2007, went live in 2009, and within our contract when we purchased in '07, there was a stipulation that we could upgrade to their new '.Net' framework when it was available for 100,000. The framework is available now and in negotiating with Patriot in the trying times that we're in, they have negotiated a price of 80,000 to upgrade. We feel that this upgrade will give us an ability to be more efficient with our data. The older system was not designed to handle the cap and the ATI. The older framework was developed, I guess, maybe, in the 90's, prior to any capping laws ever being developed. This new '.Net' framework is based, is built to allow us to be more efficient with, with the capping and the ATI software, as well as with just being more efficient with our data and not handling, year after year, and building, building database after database to store information. It's, it's an IT nightmare. It will actually help us to save storage in the long run."

Committee Member Schurlknight: "Yeah, Mr. Chairman?"

Chairman Pinckney: "Let me, let me get a motion, and we'll, we'll open it up for discussion. How about that?"

Committee Member Schurlknight: "So move."

Committee Member Fish: "Second."

It was moved by Committee Member Schurlknight and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **award** the sole source purchase of appraisal software upgrades for the Real Property Services Department to Patriot Properties, Incorporated, in the amount of $80,000.00.

Chairman Pinckney: "Ok; we got a motion and a second; discussion, Mr. Schurlknight."

Committee Member Schurlknight: "Wilson, on this, that 80,000 – that's already in your existing budget?"

Mr. Baggett: "It is. I need to back up just a little bit. We had requested the money in the budget. It was put into Capital Improvements. I put it in a line item, my mistake, so what you have in front of you, it should not read Line Item 6112. It should be Capital Improvements, but it was in my budget and was approved."

Committee Member Schurlknight: "Ok."

Mr. Baggett: "Yes, Sir."

Committee Member Schurlknight: "Thank you."

Mr. Baggett: "Thank you for bringing that up. I'm sorry."

Chairman Pinckney: "Yes, Mr. Fish."

Committee Member Fish: "One question, Wilson, you talk about it increases efficiency and functionality."

Mr. Baggett: "Yes, Sir."

Committee Member Fish: "How often do you use it and for what?"

Mr. Baggett: "Patriot Properties is our appraisal software. We use it every day for valuing properties in the County for taxation. So, it is our main database for information, in valuation."

Committee Member Fish: "Now, appraisal for properties – isn't it based on recent sales or does this program go back and pick sales or does it try to evaluate it like an insurance company does based on square feet and what it should cost?"

Mr. Baggett: "Well, I think we're talking about two different things. What we put into the system is what it will generate. We, we tell it what numbers need to be in it. The sales that we use are dictated by the re-assessment cycle that we're in. So, we're using, currently, 2008, so Patriot is built on a 2008 database along with all the other ATI's that occur. But, we tell it what year it needs, and that's, that's part of the problem where we began in '08. We have a multitude of properties valued at '08, and then, we have another multitude of properties, maybe, 10,000 in '09 when we still had some sales. And then, we may have 5,000 in '10 and then 6,000 in '11.

We have to, we have to build these databases to store all of the numbers that have occurred, whatever sales have occurred. So, it's really, it's really a database that handles whatever we tell it to handle, but right now, it's not as efficient as it needs to be, because each year has its own table. And, the new '.Net' framework will – we'll be able to merge all of those into one – almost, just a touch screen, and we'll be able to move, instead of having to back out of '13, go back into '11, move into '09. We'll be able – it will be almost seamless in the way our information will be flowing. Right now, it's stacked, and then our IT, Michael Gaskins, has to build storage lockers for all the data, and then the system has to go in and grab, move, grab and move. With the new '.Net' framework, it won't work that way. It will be…"

Committee Member Fish: "There was a situation in recent past in trying to evaluate the cost of nurseries, we were about 5,000,000 spread. And, the fairground thing, we've opted for 4-5,000,000 spread. It will solve that problem?"

Mr. Baggett: "Well, you know, when you're talking about the nursery, we're talking about a zoning that was Flex-1, and I think, that's a whole – that's another issue, that really is."

Committee Member Fish: "If we spend $80,000.00, what's it gonna help us fix?"

Mr. Baggett: "Well, I was just explaining that. It will help us in managing the data that we have. It makes us more efficient in, in that the framework is built to handle the capping and the ATI, which is the biggest problem that we have. When I was talking to our legislators back in '05 about this law that they were passing, I was telling them then that this law was only going to add a burden on the counties, because we're gonna have to buy all these software systems to manage it, and that's what we're facing right now. And, it really is; it's a management issue. You're right that we do have some mistakes out there, but when the nursery's been running for 20 years at AG use, nobody seems to pay attention to it. So, it kind of, it's now kind of in the, in the spotlight right now, but yeah, but that was AG use for Flex-1, different than AG use for Heavy Industrial. So, it's two different, really two different issues."

Committee Member Farley: "Listen, I've got a really bad feeling about with this is going to be a re-assessment year coming up, and property is going to be re-assessed, probably, at a lower amount. Will their taxes be lower?"

Mr. Baggett: "Well, that's gonna depend on what you individuals do."

Speaker: [Unrecognized and inaudible.]

Mr. Baggett: "That's right; that's the right answer."

Committee Member Farley: "And, the reason I'm saying that…"

Ms. Windham: "Mr. Farley, we can't pick you up."

Committee Member Farley: "…last…"

Mr. Callanan: "Can you speak into your mike?"

Chairman Pinckney: "They can't hear you."

Committee Member Farley: "We had some house guests two weeks ago that live on the Chesapeake Bay, and they re-assess their property every two years, and their property dropped from 1.8 million, I mean, 1.2 million to 850,000. …[inaudible]… They haven't gotten a tax bill yet, but that's what I'm saying is will – how can we pay for government?"

Mr. Baggett: "Well, you have the ability in the statute to adjust millage based on your tax base, yes, Sir, so it's really gonna depend on what, what you individuals do with the millage rate, and I foresee a drop in the base in 2014, which '14 is the year we're looking at, not next year. So, we'll go through two tax cycles before we get to the re-assessment. So, yes, Sir, I see property values dropping, and we are out in the neighborhoods, and I hope most of you all have seen our advertisement on the site where we are out field-checking, making sure that we do have the right codes and right data on individual homeowners. But, that's going to happen. Sales are telling us that. They're dictating us, and so, when we, hopefully, are able to upgrade our software, we'll be able to put the right sales in, Mr. Fish, to make sure we're coming up with the right numbers. I, I can only hope, as a homeowner, that my value is going up in '14. That's what I hope, but I don't, I don't know. Today, I don't see that happen."

Speaker: [Unrecognized and inaudible.]

Mr. Baggett: "Yes, Sir."

Committee Member Farley: "Thank you."

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Pinckney: "Thank you, Mr. Baggett."

Mr. Baggett: "Thank you."

C.   Mr. Doug Tompkins, Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Deputy Director of Operations, Re: Surplus Vehicles and Equipment

Chairman Pinckney: "Next on the agenda – that item will be pulled. It has to do with surplus vehicles.

D.   Mr. Mark Schlievert, Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Director of Solid Waste, Re: Contract Extension for Yard Waste Grinding

In Mr. Schlievert's absence, Mr. Jason Johnson: "Good evening, Chairman and Committee Members. I'm here tonight to recommend that D.S. Utilities be granted this one-year extension, at the rate of $6.50 per ton for our yard waste grinding contract."

Chairman Pinckney: "What's the pleasure of the Committee?"

Committee Member Farley: "Move for approval."

Committee Member Fish: "Second."

It was moved by Committee Member Farley and seconded by Committee Member Fish to **award** D.S. Utilities a one-year extension for yard waste grinding, at a rate of $6.50 per ton. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Pinckney: "Thank you, Mr. Johnson."

Mr. Johnson: "Thank you."

It was moved by Committee Member Schurlknight and seconded by Committee Member Farley to **adjourn** the meeting of the Committee on Public Works and Purchasing. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

10 September 2012
Date Approved

PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASING
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7

Members: Mr. Phillip Farley, District No. 1
Mr. Robert O. Call, Jr., District No. 3
Mr. Dennis Fish, District No. 5
Mr. Jack H. Schurlknight, District No. 6

Mr. Timothy J. Callanan, District No. 2, ex officio
Mrs. Cathy S. Davis, District No. 4, ex officio
Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8, ex officio
Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Supervisor, ex officio

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASING**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday**, **August 13**, **2012** at **6:01 p.m**., following other scheduled committee meetings in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

AGENDA

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES   **July 9, 2012**

A.   **Ms. Cindy Forte, Register of Deeds, Re:** Sole Source Purchase for Hecon software.

B.   **Mr. Wilson Baggett, Assessor, Re:** Sole Source Purchase for Appraisal software.

C.   **Mr. Doug Tompkins, Berkeley County Water and Sanitation, Deputy Director Operations, Re:** Surplus Vehicles and Equipment.

D.   **Mr. Mark Schlievert, Berkeley County Water and Sanitation, Director of Solid Waste, Re**: Contract Extension for Yard Waste Grinding.

August 8, 2012
S/Catherine R. Windham
Interim Clerk of County Council